

Not a Lecture Platform

The pulpit is not intended as a lecture platform where one is given an opportunity to display his knowledge of oratory, and his much learning. It was not such in Paul's time, tho evidently the temptation was present, otherwise Paul would not have written, "I come not with enticing words," and again, not with "excellency of speech." Too many preachers in modern times have yielded to a temptation which Paul resisted. The Northwestern Christian Advocate says: "Hundreds of American pulpits practically are mere lecture platforms, whereon speakers essay an alleged gospel that invites men to better lives, but dares not proclaim God as the exclusive sanctioning authority. A sad number of pulpit speakers consciously or unconsciously seem to have taken merely human contracts to entertain their audiences, rather than warn, instruct, challenge, and often rebuke them in God's name. Many pulpits omit to announce the incomparable sovereignty of God over men. The arrogant assertions of the preachers who proclaim a 'new' theology seem to have shaken the godly confidence of many other pulpits, and in apologetic, deprecating, and altogether uncertain sound issues from trumpets that should summon man in the name of a God who has never ceased to reign in Israel."

A lady of high literary attainments recently said: "After working with books all week I go to church fairly hungry for something nourishing, for while good literature furnishes mental food, there is no soul food that compares with the old Gospel plainly preached. This is what I want, but what do I get? Quotations from Browning, quotations from Lowell, quotations from Thoreau, ad nauseum. Metaphors and similes are crowded upon each other, political questions discussed, the published views of mushroom writers are dilated upon, and a few moral platitudes bind the whole together." Many a hearer leaves the church on Sunday morning weary and disgusted. He goes there to hear something that will cheer his burdened soul, to comfort his sorrowing heart, but instead he is compelled to listen to a lecture on some recent social event, or on some of the great literary lights instead of hearing something on the "Light of the World." The age demands a well trained, educated ministry, but not to make a display of much learning, but rather that the gospel may be proclaimed in its primitive purity and simplicity.

The Newspaper Trust

Some time ago reference was made, in these columns, to the fact that paper had advanced in price to an extent beyond all reason, and that the advance would make a difference in the amount paid for paper by this office in one year of from \$500 to \$600; that is to say it will cost the Board about

\$300 more for paper this year than it did last year. What is true of this office is true of every printing office thru-out the country. When prices in wheat advance, the price of flour advances also; when the price of material and the price of labor in any industry advance, the price of the finished product advances with it, but in this the newspaper differs from all other forms of industry, in that it "sells at a fixed price, and has no means of putting the increased cost on the consumer. In many cases it means the confiscation of profits, and in many others creates an actual loss." If each of our subscribers would pay 20 cents extra for his paper it would about pay the amount it costs us more for paper during the year than it formerly did. That is, if each subscriber were to pay 20 cents it would save us about \$500 or the additional cost of paper required for the office during the year. This, however, we can not ask our subscribers to do as no other publisher can. It is a fact that in this case the publishers must bear the loss.

To correct these evils, recently, the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, comprising the largest newspapers of the United States, met in New York City, and adopted the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, The price of printing paper used by newspapers in the United States has been arbitrarily increased in price from 60 to 100 per cent., without reason of warrant to be found in the conditions of the industry itself; and

WHEREAS, It is the common belief that this increase is due to the workings of a trust; therefore be it

Resolved, That the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, representing in this case not only its own members, but the 22,000 newspapers of the United States, calls upon Congress to make inquiry by means of a special committee into the conditions above described, to the end that suitable legislation may be provided to remedy this condition of affairs, in the interest of the best source of public information provided for the people. to wit: The Newspaper Press, whose interest the founders of the Republic held in the highest regard.

We trust the matter will meet with favorable consideration. Meanwhile we can only ask that every one interested in the cause of our Publishing House will do what he can to secure new subscribers, and that those knowing themselves indebted to the Board will make prompt remittance. It is but just that we should ask that we be not required to send bills more frequently than absolutely necessary. It takes time and money to send bills; please, brethren, save us this expense, especially in view of the increased expense in paper. We can not ask you to pay more for your paper than formerly, but we can ask you to help us increase the subscription list, and as much as in you lies do a cash business.

Proven a Fool

A noted sceptic who had given much of his time lecturing against Christianity, was by his own words, proven a fool in the fol-

lowing way: "Aren't you the evangelist, preaching up here at the church?" said a man in a New Jersey city to a stranger one morning. "Yes, sir," replied the preacher. "Well, I supposed you were a gentleman." "I claim to be one." "Well, I don't think you are one. Didn't you say last night that you could prove to the satisfaction of anyone within ten minutes that all infidels were fools? If you don't prove it to my satisfaction, I will publish you in all the city papers as the most consummate liar that ever struck the city." "Where is your infidel?" said the preacher. "I claim to be one," was the reply, "and I want you to know I am no fool, either." "You don't mean to say there is no reality in Christianity?" "I do, sir. I have studied all phases of the subject, and have traveled and delivered lectures against Christianity for more than twelve years, and I'm prepared to say there is nothing in it." "You are certain there is nothing in it?" "Yes, sir, there is nothing in it." "Will you please tell me," said Mr. Hyde, "if a man who will lecture twelve years against nothing is not a fool, what, in your judgment, would constitute a fool?"

Apologizing for the Saloon

The philosopher of the Lime Kiln Club was about right when he said: "Bred'rin, when yer hea's a church membe' 'pologizin' fo' de s'loon an' de Duchman an' his beah, ye can set hit down as a fac' dat he is one ob dem as slips up to de hotel bah, or in de back doah ob de s'loon, an' takes his drap on de sly berry reg'larly."

Personal Mention

The "Four Open Letters" appeared as editorial in the "Sheldon Daily."

Brother I. D. Bowman closed a meeting at Ridgely, Md., resulting in nine accessions.

Brother Tombaugh reports another accession at Hagerstown, Md., by baptism.

Brother Bemenderfer writes very encouragingly of the work in his several congregations.

Brother Bowman reports several accessions in the city of Philadelphia, Pa., and all the departments of church work progressing.

We are glad to hear once more from Brother Smith, New Jersey. From his report it is clear that he is a very busy man, preaching three times each Sabbath.

Brother W. L. Spanogle is now located in Altoona, Pa., 2430 Broad Ave. He is well pleased with his new home. Several applicants for baptism are reported.

Brother W. M. Summers writes: I am highly pleased with the *Quarterly*, and long live the EVANGELIST. Thanks, brother.

Brother J. L. Bowman, graduate of Huntingdon College, expects to take the oversight of the Vinco Brethren church with its ad-